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Welcome to the September edition of the Alumni & Friends E-Newsletter. This month, we're showcasing two incredible individuals, as well as sharing some exciting events coming up on campus. Don't forget Homecoming Weekend is right around the corner on October 14-17! To register and see the schedule of events we have planned, click [here](#) to head to our website.

## Saints Spotlight





**Francisco Semiao** holds two degrees from Marymount and is currently the Director of Regulatory Affairs for MedStar Health, the largest healthcare provider in Maryland and the Washington, D.C. region. He received his BA in Health Fitness Management from Marymount in 2000, his Master of Public Health from The George Washington University in 2002, and his Master of Science in Health Care Management from Marymount in 2005.

After working some years as a personal trainer, Francisco dreamt of one day running a gym, so he decided to attend Marymount and take the untraditional path of starting school in his late 20's. He eventually went on to teach undergraduate classes at MU, and was the Alumni Board President. After graduating, he realized his true passion was public health, so he applied to graduate programs while also interning at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Believe it or not, he wasn't actually accepted into GW's program at first because they didn't believe he'd have the grades to pass certain classes. But Francisco's persistence and passion paid off, and he was accepted. He even proved them wrong by passing the very classes they told him he'd fail.

Francisco is a great example of perseverance. Before applying to MU, he discovered he had a learning disability, which greatly impacted how he studied. Despite this obstacle, he never gave up. He said if he could give one piece of advice to alumni, it would be to do what you love and what makes you happy. He said asking yourself what you can do each day to make the world a better place will not only make yourself happy in the end, but also others. Alongside his work for MedStar Health, Francisco founded the National Organization of Portuguese Americans in 2008 and served as its president for ten years. He recently became an advisor for the Royal House of Portugal's Dom Manuel II Foundation and provides fiscal oversight of the Association of Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House's charity in the U.S., serving as a representative in his role to the Portuguese American community.

In his free time, Francisco is working on a few projects and has the goal of writing two books. He's currently working on the first, a children's book, and is also writing a screenplay about a Portuguese medieval period hero and saint, which already has interest from a major Hollywood producer.

## Faculty Spotlight



**Dr. Brian Flanagan** is an Associate Professor of Theology at Marymount. He received his bachelor's degree from the Catholic University of America, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Boston College. He specializes in ecclesiology, which is the theology of the church, at the intersection between theology and political theory. Alongside teaching, Dr. Flanagan is the current president of the College Theology Society and is serving a two-year term he started this past June.

In the classroom, one of Dr. Flanagan's favorite courses to teach is TRS100, Theological Inquiry, a class he has taught every semester for the past 11 years. This is an introductory course taught to all undergraduates which explores questions about human

existence and gives students the tools to explore and answer them. He also teaches a global classroom course called The Mystery of the Church where students get to spend a week in Rome, and a course called 19th and 20th Century Church History where students participate in an in-class roleplaying game as bishops at the Second Vatican Council. This fall, Dr. Flanagan is also teaching a section of the new Connections 100 course titled God, Religion and Aliens.

As for his favorite part about teaching at Marymount, Dr. Flanagan says it would have to be the diversity of students. He finds it exciting to teach Christian theology in a community with a wide range of religious and non-religious students. One piece of advice Dr. Flanagan would give, specifically to Marymount alumni, is to never stop reading or asking questions. He says that just because you're done with college doesn't mean you're done with your education -- it's important to keep learning.

Dr. Flanagan is also the author of the award-winning book, "Stumbling into Holiness: Sin and Sanctity in the Church," which discusses how we think about the Church when it fails to live up to its mission. He is currently working on his second book, which is about Pope Francis' attempts to introduce more collaboration and shared responsibility at all levels of the church.

In his free time, Dr. Flanagan enjoys helping run the faculty and staff knitting group, and also plays fife in a colonial reenactment fife and drum corps.

## Ministry and Spiritual Life

[Ministry & Spiritual Life special events](#)

## Events

[Cody Gallery Opening Reception - MAGNIFICA: Goldschmied & Chiari](#)  
September 2 @ 5:00 - 7:00 pm

[Barry Gallery Opening Reception - Margaret Murphy "Nature/Culture"](#)  
September 10 @ 5:00 - 7:00 pm

[Non-Profit & Service Networking & Opportunity Fair - Flyer here](#)  
September 22 @ 11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Ballston Campus

[Business & Technology Networking & Opportunity Fair](#)  
October 4 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Ballston Campus

[Homecoming Weekend](#)  
October 14 - October 17  
To view the schedule of events and to register, click on the link above.

[Halo Awards](#)  
October 16 @ 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
*Join us at the Westin Arlington Gateway to celebrate the achievements and service of six outstanding alumni, faculty and community members. The ceremony will include a cocktail hour, dinner and awards program. Click on the link above to purchase tickets.*

## Class Notes



**Zeina Hamad '09**

Zeina is the author of the children's book series Matti and Massi Missions. The first book of the series takes place in Rome, and the second book of the series, taking place in Dubai, will be released in September. The third book of the series will be released in early 2022. To read more about her books, head to her website [here](#).



**Angel Lopez-Soto '20, Keri Mignano '20 and Madelynn Decou '20 take part in 3E Camp Literacy Lab**

This July, the 3E camp in which students Explore STEM, Enrich literacy skills and Enjoy each other (hence the name 3E) inaugurated a Literacy Lab. The 3E camp is a premier opportunity for Marymount undergraduate and graduate teacher candidates to enhance their teaching capacity in meaningful ways. To read more about the camp, you can view the press release [here](#).

**Norman W. Minter**

Norman W. Minter, past Associate Vice President for HR at Marymount, passed away on May 29, 2021 in Round Rock, Texas. He was a leader at MU with a passion for serving others. To read more about his life and contributions to Marymount and to HR in higher ed, click [here](#).



**Missy Wagler '07**

Missy Wagler passed away on August 3, 2021. She is the recipient of Marymount's 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award, and was a Unit Chief with the FBI Cyber Division who received numerous accolades for her work. She also led volunteer groups and fundraising events for breast cancer awareness, suicide prevention, and the health and wellness of children. Missy will be honored by Marymount at the Halo Awards ceremony. You can read more about her legacy [here](#).

# Community Notes

## **Looking for MU alumni artists for Alumni Art and Design Exhibit**

Marymount is looking for alumni artists to submit their work to a juried exhibition. It will feature two-dimensional, framed (ready to hang) art in any media, including drawing, painting, design, mixed media and photography, as well as sculpture and ceramics. Awards, including Best in Show and two Honorable Mentions, will be presented at the reception during Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, October 16 from 3-4 pm.

If interested, [submit here](#).

**CALL FOR ENTRIES**

**MARYMOUNT  
JURIED  
ALUMNI  
EXHIBITION**

**BARRY GALLERY**

**October 16 - December 2, 2021**

**SUBMISSIONS DUE SEPT 25**

**\*Open to all Alumni\***

**Curated by Jamie McDonnell, '18**

**[marymount.edu/barrygallery](http://marymount.edu/barrygallery)**



**MARYMOUNT  
UNIVERSITY**

## **Jobs**

In order to view the following job positions, you must log into Handshake or create an account if you do not have one already.

[Admissions Counselor - Marymount University.](#)

[2022 Amazon Operations Finance Rotational Program- FTE- Winter](#)

[Full Stack UI/UX Software Developer, Computer Vision and Remote Sensing](#)

[Mid-level Full Stack UI/UX Software Developer, Computer Vision and Remote Sensing](#)

[Public Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist I \(HMH\) / Exercises Coordinator, Bureau of Agency Preparedness and Response](#)

[IT Audit Senior Analyst](#)

[Healthcare Coordinator/Director of First Aid](#)

[UI Designer at Harvard AI Startup](#)

[Software Developer \(University Hire\) McLean/Dallas](#)

[Director of Communications & Marketing](#)

[Internal Communications, Media Relations, & Corporate Events Full-Time Analyst Opportunity](#)

[Digital Transformation Specialist - Marketing And Sales Strategic Business Insights](#)

[Clinical Nurse - Lead \(Job ID: 4429\)](#)

[Senior Finance Manager - MBA](#)

[UX Interaction Designer](#)

[Director/Associate Director, Product Marketing](#)

[Enterprise Holdings: Sales Management Trainee](#)

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